

**REMEMBERING
CONNIE —**

**A LIFE
WELL-LIVED**



Fearless journalist. Outspoken labor organizer. Encouraging educator. Trusted role model. Outspoken community activist. Dauntless champion of human rights. Gifted speaker. Leader among women. Loving wife, sister and aunt. Friend of many. Advocate for all. Connie Williams Woodruff was all these things and more. With seemingly ease, she dedicated her life to helping others by giving all she could to her community.

In her youth, Connie was city editor of *The Herald News*, a Newark-based Black weekly, one of the few women nationwide accorded such an important voice. Over the years, she served on more than thirty boards and foundations. She was a life member of the Newark Branch NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, and The Leaguers, Inc. and founder of Newark's Attucks-King Black Heritage Parade.

Six New Jersey governors appointed Connie to state commissions. For 16 years she was chairperson of the New Jersey Commission on the Status of Women, then won two terms as president of the National Association of Commissions on Women.

Proud and ever-mindful of her African-American heritage, Connie fought daily for the civil rights of all people, squarely facing the bias of her everyday experiences

and theirs. For 20 years, she was education director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, striving to better conditions for poorly treated workers. An original board member of Shirley Chisholm's Black Women's Political Caucus, Connie also was the first chairperson of the West Orange Human Rights Commission. Active with the American Jewish Committee's Stamp Out Hate Campaign, she also visited Israel twice on fellowships.

Connie spent the last decade of her career at Essex County College in Newark as director of public relations. As a former two-term member of the National Democratic Committee, she put her political clout to good use, helping the college found a Women's Center. Her master's degree in labor studies was a springboard to teaching labor studies courses.

"As I See It," Connie's weekly column in *City News*, was considered a must-read. She was as well a biting political pundit for *Cablevision* of Newark. Connie loved nothing more than sharing her great wisdom and knowledge with her beloved sorors of Omicron Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the thousands of friends she made along life's diverse pathways. She and her husband Bill, who died six months before her, were communicants of Newark's Trinity St. Philip's Cathedral. Here's to them both.



Connie Williams Woodruff
October 24, 1921-October 19, 1996



Connie's father, Frederick Isaac Williams (1885-1990), lived to be 105 years old. Her mother, Caroline (Carrie) Pines Williams (1890-1970), was a caterer in Newark's Central Ward — and a well-known Republican District Leader.



Although she eventually became a two-term Democratic National Committeewoman, Connie was a Republican stalwart in her youth. Here, she teaches a class for the Republican School of Politics.



When important people came to Newark, Connie invariably was on the scene covering the event for The Herald News or providing the unforgettable commentary as a much-sought-after mistress of ceremonies. Here, she greets Jackie Robinson, a fellow crusader for human rights. (c. 1950)

As city editor of The Herald News, Connie danced on every set. One of her first assignments was covering Sugar Ray Robinson. With them, right, is William "Jazz" Jones of the Newark Boys' and Girls' Club.





Billy and Connie Woodruff were married for 42 years. At one of the many social events they attended, Billy is flanked by Connie and by Emily Farley, their sister-in-law.

At a Newark gala, Connie, left, faces the camera with Gordon and Sallie Parks, Sammy Davis, Jr. and the Dodgers' pitching ace Joe Black.

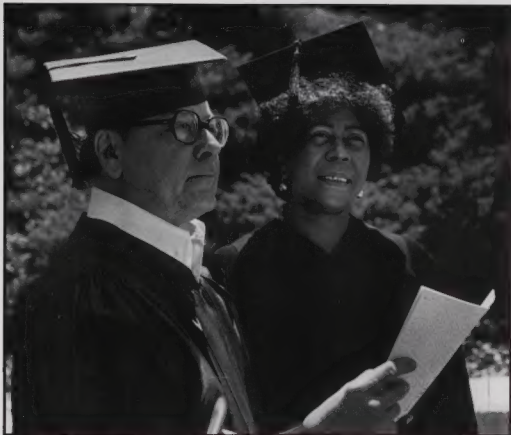




When Golconda Lodge went to Boston to pay homage to Prince Hall, who originated Free Masonry in America, Connie was in the midst of it all.



Connie led the charge of Essex County women plugging Larrie West Stalks, front, for Register of Deeds. East Orange's Corinna Kay, left, Connie, third from right, and former Essex County Freeholder Director Reita Greenstone, right.



For exemplary community service to the Newark community, Connie and Fred Danieli, founder of The Garden State Ballet, received honorary degrees in 1978 from Essex County College.



In the 1960s and 1970s, Connie and Rudy Kinchen provided the commentary for the Attucks-King Black Heritage Parade in Newark. With them are Queenie James, left, and Danny Williams, top hat.



THANKS,
Connie —
for all the
wonderful
memories!

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Connie Woodruff Foundation, Inc.